

HOT SPRINGS COUNTY.

This county was organized November 2d, 1828, whilst Arkansas was still a Territory. As its name would imply, it was named after the famous Hot Springs of Arkansas, which are now in Garland County, part of the territory, of which it was formed in 1873, formerly belonging to Hot Springs County. It has been generally conceded that the name should have gone with the hot waters, but the old county seat and the county records remained with the old county, and the new name of Garland, in honor of our greatest statesman, was given to the one newly formed.

The county seat was originally located at Rockport, but was removed to Malvern soon after the completion of the Iron Mountain Railway, which company established a station and laid out the town there, leaving poor Rockport out in the cold by about a mile distant. A general move was made for the new town, and to-day there is nothing left of Rockport but a few dilapidated buildings, not worth moving, and a few suburban residences, whose owners were the possessors of good farms adjoining. Where once stood the court house, which was burned down, and other houses that once made Rockport a prosperous trading point and the seat of county justice, now looks like a deserted camp ground, and a visitor would hardly think there had ever been anything there but a cross-road store and post office. We want to make a prediction in this connection, though we lay no claim to being a prophet. The time will come when Rockport will rebuild, not as Rockport, however, but as a manufacturing town, and it will continue to grow until Malvern and the new manufacturing center will be built together as one city.

The millions of horse (water) power going to waste at this point and at the falls (rapids) of the Ouachita, half a mile above, will some day be utilized, and when they are, the Lowell of the South will be built. We have made a personal inspection of this fine water-power, and we have also visited Lowell, Fall River and Lawrence, in Massachusetts; Manchester and Nashua, in New Hampshire; Lewistown, Maine, as well as the most of the other manufacturing towns of New England, and we truly believe that with the exception of the last named place, none of them have a better water power than can be made at the Rapids of the Ouachita, generally spoken of as the Falls.

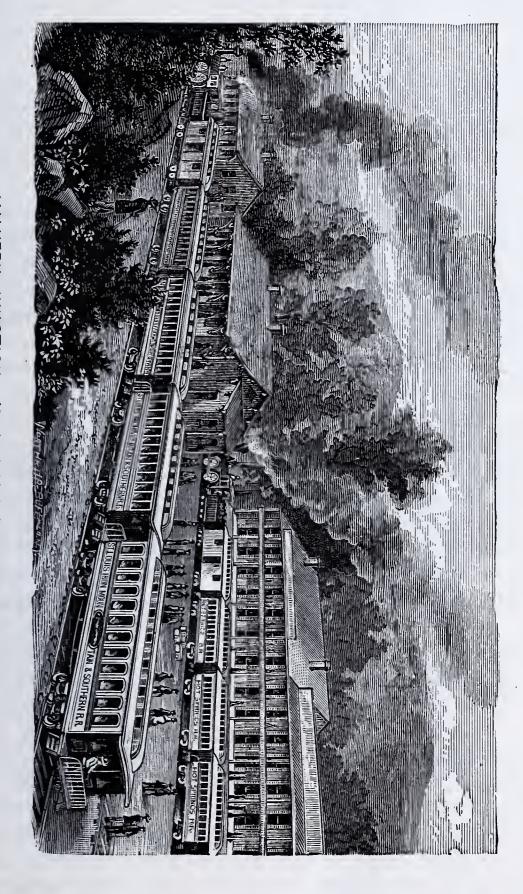
There is a fall of 19½ feet from the falls to Rockport (one-half mile), and the rocky ledge which crosses the Ouachita River at the falls, or first rapids, forms a solid foundation for a masonry dam, which can be extended fully thirty feet high, if desired, above low water, and connected with this solid stone ledge on each bank, which ages ago formed a fine natural dam across this beautiful river.

Here could be built cotton mills in a cotton field, for just below Rockport the fine bottoms of the Ouachita spread out their fertile fields, where one bale to the acre is considered a sure crop with anything like a reasonable season; and at Malvern 12,000 bales of cotton were shipped off last year to the cotton mills of New or Old England, to be again returned in some kind of goods that could be manufactured cheaper here. Twenty-five years will see our prophecy fulfilled, and in less than ten years these enterprises will be well under way. We hope our readers will not consider us extravagant in our surmises of the future greatness of this locality, for it is our intention to be conservative and truthful in our statements, as they are facts, principally, with which we have to deal.

MALVERN,

The county seat of Hot Springs County, is but a little over ten years old, and has a population of about one thousand inhabitants. It is at the junction of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern with the Hot Springs Railroad, where a transfer of all freight and passengers are made for Hot Springs, which is about

twenty-two miles northwest. The illustration given here shows both depots and the trains of both roads, also the transfer



of passengers which are principally visitors seeking health, at this the greatest health resort in the world.

Malvern is quite a business center, and draws trade from the back country for a distance of seventy miles. The merchants carry large stocks of general merchandise, several of them, we are told doing business of over one hundred thousand dollars per year. Messrs. B. & H. Berger do the largest trade in the county. Their store house is 42x120 feet, two stories high, and it is filled with as well a selected stock of general merchandise as can be found anywhere. They have recently established a branch house at Fordyce, a new station on the Texas & St. Louis Railway, in Dallas County, about 65 miles south. The other large merchants in Malvern are W. H. Cooper & Bro., H. A. Butler, John L. Hughes & Co., and S. W. Smith, in general merchandise; E. D. Smith, P. Riley, A. H. Hardwick, Powel Cardin, Holmes & Smith, Harry Hunter and Mike C. O'Bryan, in groceries and hardware; D. S. Still, in stoves and hardware, besides other houses which are such as are generally found in the make up of business in small cities. The situation of the depot at Malvern is unfortunate, as the best of the town cannot be seen from the depot or from the cars of the passing trains, and but few of the passers by ever learn of the pretty little town on the hill. The ground rises quite abruptly just back of the houses fronting the depot grounds, commencing very near the railroad right of way. The business street which crosses the railroads at the depot runs up this hill at quite a steep grade for 150 feet, thence south through the city, nearly on a level, with business houses lining each side for two blocks. Back of this street, on each side, for a quarter to half a mile are located the private residences, churches and schools. The location of this part of the town is very desirable, being quite level, only sufficiently rolling to drain well. The soil is a sandy loam with a sub soil of red clay, and all the houses have fine gardens, both flower and vegetable, besides fruit trees and berries. The suburban residences have large lots and grounds, some of them having several acres, and on these they have peach orchards and other fruit trees, and between the rows they cultivate strawberries, making a profitable business, by shipping to Hot Springs and St. Louis, and supporting a family off of a few acres close to town, where their children can have good school advadvantages. A large building has just been erected for a graded

school, 48x80 feet and two stories high, which has cost as completed \$2,500 to \$3,000, without furniture and fixtures. It was built by Mr. L. F. Cochran, formerly of Lansing, Michigan, who has made a good, substantial job. The board of directors had but little idea of architectural beauty, or possibly the school funds would not allow any extravagance in the way of adornment. They have got a good, large school house, which is an honor to the city, and we still think a little display of taste would have also made it an ornament as well. We will forgive them however if they will have a good school kept in it. We understand that such is the intention, and that the fall term will open with a principal of experience in the art of teaching, and several able assistants. There are several other public and private schools which are well attended. Parents, who have children attending them, speak well of the schools and the progress the scholars are making. Prof. Thatcher has conducted a large school here for several years, and is a teacher of ripe experience and acknowledged ability. There are four or five churches, including one colored Methodist, one of them a very neat structure.

The "Malvern Meteor," the only paper published in the county, shines with intellectual luster and shoots its editorial sparks in the right direction and with great force, because they are guided by the steady hand and flow from ready pen of Jim Tom Story. He, when many of the leading merchants and citizens withdrew their support from his paper, because they did not approve of the position he had taken in their late town election, said in a following editorial: "With the permission of God and with the assistance of our little twelve-year old son, we expect to continue our position at the case and dare to do what we conceive to be the right." And he won them back to his support, for none could resist such a manly sentiment.

The lands immediately around Malvern, excepting the bottoms of the Ouachita, are sandy, though mostly underlaid with clay, which makes them much more productive than they at first seem, and especially for fruits and berries are they well suited. When fertilized they yield large crops and retain manures well, growing cotton, corn, wheat, oats and vegetables to perfection, when the seasons are at all favorable.

FRUITS.

The growing industry in this county is fruit culture, and it is destined to rank with the first counties in the State in its shipments to Northern markets. The most important orchards and vineyards in the county are Forbes', Miles' and Cliff's, though there are hundreds of others who are commencing in a small way and increasing as fast as their profits will allow. Forbes' vineyard and orchard is situated six or seven miles south of Malvern, on what is known as Tulip Ridge, an elevated ridge with a level or gently undulating surface which runs through the southern part of this and into Dallas County, on which are situated some of the oldest and finest plantations in this part of the State. It was a favorite locality with the old planters for a place of residence. On this high, healthy ridge they would have their home place, where the family and their most trusty family servant would reside, whilst the large cotton plantations would be located in some river bottom where they were sure of a bale to the acre and ten bales to the hand. On one of these old places, where there was a very large old field, without a stump remaining, Mr. W. H. Forbes, of the Forbes Lithographing Co., of Boston, Mass., planted his first vineyard and archard eight years ago, which has been increased until there are now 40,000 bearing grape vines, at this time heavily ladened with their delicious fruit; 5,000 peach trees, but this year without their peaches, having been subject to the attacks of all the enemies of the peach, one after another, until hardly a peach remains. First, an unusually severe winter; then early blooming, followed by late frosts; then two hail storms, which finished the business for this season. Last year these very trees hung full of beautiful peaches.

There are about 125 acres under cultivation, mostly in vineyard orchard and the nursery stock of trees and young vines. Of the latter there are over 500,000 healthy growing one-year vines, from the cuttings of the vineyard. Of the whole tract of land there is just half a section (320 acres). Last year was an unfortunate one with the grapes and but little wine was made, most of them being shipped away; but the year before (1881) they made 3,000 gallons of fine wine, a car load of which was shipped

to Boston. Last year 400 gallons of peach and apple brandy was made on the place. A fine wine cellar has been built, 25x40 feet. It is a side-hill cellar, stone walls for lower or cellar story and a frame story above ground. It is expected they will make between 5,000 and 10,000 gallons of wine this year, besides shipping hundreds of dollars worth of early grapes to the Northern markets. Mr. Forbes, on account of business requirements in Boston, has visited the place but once in four or five years, and because he could not give it more personal attention, he sold, last year, the vineyard and place to Mr. W. P. M. Hunt, of Boston, a young man who now makes the vineyard his home, at least for part of the year. The whole is under the superintendence of Mr. L. Guerineau, a Frenchman, who has had considerable experience in wine making and grape growing among the vineyards of France, and more recently a florist and horticulturist at Malden, Mass.

JACK CLIFF'S ORCHARDS

Are situated one and a half miles from Gifford Station, on the Iron Mountain Railway, and about seven miles from Malvern. Mr. Cliff (H. J.), always known as Jack, has 25 acres in orchard as fine as we have ever seen anywhere, divided as follows: 7,000 peach trees, 1,000 plum trees, 500 pears, 1,000 apples, all in bearing. He also has about two acres in strawberries. plums are principally of the Wild Goose variety, which do splendidly here, frequently averaging nearly as large as bantam eggs. He has one tree, originally a Wild Sloe Plum, which was grafted where it grew with the Wild Goose, that has been bearing for about eight years, and for the three last consecutive years has yielded seven bushels of plums annually, selling for \$10, after paying expressage and commission, in fact all ex-The rest of his plum trees do not do so well of course, but they do about as well as peaches, and both bring in a golden harvest every year, though the present year is an exception with peaches.

R. T. PHELAN'S ORCHARD

Is situated one-half mile south of Malvern, adjoining the city. It is one of the best orchards in the county, and in fact it is one

of the best in the State, of its size. It covers thirty acres, and is composed of the following: 2,000 peach trees (about one-third of which are of the best and earliest varieties), 200 apple trees, and 300 plum trees (mostly of the Wild Goose variety, some of the Egg, and a late kind known as the "Alabama.")

He also has about three acres in strawberries. Two years ago he had fifteen acres in strawberries, and did remarkably well with them, but for want of proper cultivation at the proper time they were mostly killed out by the drouth of the following summer.

Mr. Phelan has resided in this section of the State for forty years, and knows peach trees that have been in bearing during all that time. We found him well posted in fruit-growing, and he has some original and very good ideas on the subject.

R. M. THRASHER'S ORCHARD

Is in plain sight of the Hot Springs Railrond, one mile west of Malvern, and we are satisfied that Prof. Thrasher would have the largest and best orchard in this county to-day if it were not for the time and interest he takes in educational matters, because he is one of the best-posted men in horticultural matters generally in the State, and his orchard contains a very large variety of the very best kinds. He takes a great interest in fruit-growing and grape and berry culture; but the time he necessarily devotes to his school prevents his giving the time to his orchard and vineyard that they require. Notwithstanding, the Professor manages to keep growing a thrifty orchard and vineyard and a good-sized strawberry patch.

JOHN J. MILES' ORCHARD

Is situated one and a half miles from Malvern and about one mile from the "Falls of the Ouachita," in plain sight of the cars on the H. S. Ry. He has a very handsome young orchard of 700 bearing trees and 1,000 more ready to set out this fall; 250 plum trees in bearing, and has several varieties, the Wild Goose, German Prune, Chickasaw, Egg and Gold Drop; also 50

pear trees, all doing well. The orchard occupies about ten acres, and is well situated. Mr. Mills has 100 acres in this tract, and proposes to extend his orchard.

Very few of the shippers of fruit keep any record that would enable an estimate of the profits of the business to be made, but one and all agree that it will "beat corn and cotton." From what we could learn the net receipts of average shipments of peaches and plums run from 30 cents to \$1.00 per one-third bushel box, making 90 cents to \$3.00 per bushel, net: Strawberries running from \$200 to \$350 per acre. Pear shipments have not been very numerous, but pay well. With a few exceptions, the parties engaged in the business in this county are not experienced horticulturists, and are evidently paying good prices for the lessons they are learning, but we have confidence in their ultimate success, and so have they.

TIMBER.

This county has some of the finest timber in the State, and there are now over thirty mills within its limits engaged in sawing it into lumber, which is shipped off to St. Louis, Texas, and other markets.

Pine is the principal kind that is now being manufactured, though some oak is sawed and shipped.

The variety of timbers grown in the county are pine, oak (of all kinds excepting the live oak), hickory, ash, walnut, sweet gum and black gum; all these in large quantities excepting ash and walnut, and there are many other varieties existing in smaller quantities. Between Donaldson and Witherspoon (two stations on the Iron Mountain Railway between Malvern and Arkadelphia), are large bodies of land thickly covered with the finest oak and hickory timber to be found in the State.

The saw mills are mostly located along the line of the railroad, and have side tracks for their especial accommodation in loading and shipping timber.

Along the Ouachita and other streams there is a considerable quantity of holly, a very valuable timber, said to be a good substitute for mahogany and walnut.

Some of the mills have planers and re-saw machines attached, and convert the best of their rough lumber into flooring and siding. The best yellow pine flooring of Arkansas is considered as good as any in the market, and commands the highest price.

Gifford, Donaldson and Witherspoon are the principal stations in this county, besides Malvern, though there are several flag stations where mills are located. In the Western part of the county, on the west side of the Ouachita river, the lands are principally uplands, though some very good settlements are found in the valleys. About Midway, Social Hill, and other little trading points, they have Postoffices, a store or two, blacksmith shop, etc. There is also a small prairie in this part of the county. For sheep raising we would consider this a fine region, as the uplands are dry and healthy, and yet there is an abundance of nice, clear running water in all the streams course, it is also a good section for other stock, but we thought it especially good for sheep and goats. In fact, all of the county may be considered excellent for stock raising. Hogs fatten on the mast every year in the woods and on the bottoms of the Ouachita river. All the tame grasses do well when properly cultivated, and millet yields two full crops in one season, yielding two to four tons per acre for each cutting, when seasons are favorable. One great reason why stock will pay well in this county, besides the natural advantages of good grazing and water, is its proximity to the city and resort of Hot Springs, which is the best market in the State, even better than St. Louis, for cattle, sheep, chickens, eggs, butter, fruits and vegetables. Anything raised on the farm sells there for cash, and at good round prices.

It is expected that the Hot Springs (Narrow Gauge) Railroad will some day in the near future be extended to Pine Bluff, about sixty miles southeast from Malvern, and there connect with the St. Louis and Texas (Narrow Gauge) Railroad. Of course, this will only be done by the present owners when the Iron Mountain run their line to Hot Springs, which it will probably do within the next two years.

The Hot Springs Railway have their machine shops, etc., at Malvern.

MAGNET COVE.

This wonderful place we have visited many times in the last ten years, and never without varying interests, each visit revealing new wonders and interesting objects of study. This was the scene of a very interesting gold excitement about four years ago; hundreds flocked hither in search of this shining metal. It was found, but in particles so fine and so well distributed throughout the rock that the excitement soon died out, for only nuggets and shining scales that could be picked up or washed from the sands would satisfy the hungry crowd that rushed to Magnet Cove when the first cry of Gold! was sounded. However we would not have our readers infer that this excitement was all "fuss and feathers." One farm of 160 acres in the cove sold for \$4,000, that of Dr. Halliman's, to Messrs. Fordyce, Snow and others; another of 120 acres for the same rates, and mineral leases of other tracts were secured also. Gold was said to be found by assay in two-thirds of all the rocks found within a certain limit in the cove, ranging from a trace to thousands of dollars to the ton of rock. The writer had a piece of rock assayed for his own personal satisfaction that he had himself assayed for his own personal satisfaction that he had himself broken from the solid ledge, which showed about \$1.85 gold and a trace of silver. Some pieces of rock were reported found which showed gold plain eneugh to be seen by the eye without the use of a glass. The reader will naturally ask why the excitement was allowed to die out and nothing done to develop such a good prospect? In reply will say we asked the same question ourselves of one of the principal owners of the largest tract of land purchased. He said: "The parties interested could not agree as to the mode of development or raise the necessary funds required to mine the prospect, but that he was well satisfied that a paying mine could be developed." We would like to see some experienced miner prospect Cove Creek from the Cove to where the H. S. R. R. crosses the creek, for placer diggings, with a Long Tom or sluice and quick silver to catch diggings, with a Long Tom or sluice and quick silver to catch and save the gold dust; we are satisfied gold can be found, and we truly believe in quantities sufficient to pay good wages.

The following is from the valuable geological report of Prof. D. D. Owen:

"One of the most interesting geological regions of Hot Springs County, and indeed of the State, is the Magnet Cove, to which I have already alluded in chapter I., in speaking of the principal localities of crystalline rocks throughout the State.

"This 'cove' is interesting, not only on account of the large body of magnetic iron ore which exists there, but also for the great variety of minerals and erystalline rocks which the region furnishes, of which a list is given in the first chapter. Among them all the pure erystalline forms of Titanic acid are rendered the most important by their extensive use now in dentistry. Some of the crystals of this mineral have been analyzed and proved to be as pure a form of Titanic acid, if not purer than any on record.

"The center and southern part of the 'cove,' nearly on sections 19 and 20, township 3 south, range 17 west, is a fine agricultural region, being the farm formerly owned by J. S. Conway.

"On the east part of section 20 there is a great bed of magnetic iron ore, some of which exhibits polarity. It is not exposed in a high hill or mountain, as in Missouri, but is on the same level with the cultivated fields adjoining, occupying a superficial area of the immediate surface of about eight acres; the ground over this area being exclusively covered with fragments and blocks of magnetic iron ore, occasionally mixed with loadstone. Beneath the surface it extends to an unknown depth. It has been penetrated from four to five feet without finding any change of the material, except that the loadstones seem to be more abundant on the surface.

An analysis has been made of the magnetic iron ore, with the following result:

Insoluble matter,		-		-		-		-		-	3.20
Moisture, -	-		-		-		-		-		1.00
Peroxide of iron,		-		-		-		-		-	67.20
Protoxide of iron,	-		-		-		-		-		24.46
Magnesia, -		-		-		-		-		-	.30
Titanic acid,	-		-		-		-		-		1.20
Albumina, -		-		-		-		-		-	.45
Lime, Magnesia and	los	SS	-		-		-		•		2.19
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"The lapping of the arable land on the margin of the magnetic iron ore conceals its relation to the adjacent rocks; but from the minerals plowed up in the fields on the south and southeast, the magnetic iron ore seems to be surrounded, in part at least with mica slates. Along with large flakes of this mineral, brought to the surface by the plow, are beautiful crystals of agate and black garnets. Adjoining the flucan of mica is a schorlamite granite. On the west part of section 19, where this rock is exposed in the bed of Cove Creek, some galena is reported to have been found, but none of any consequence was discovered when I examined the 'cove.'

"A short distance on the west side of Cove Creek, on the west part of section 19, a heavy vein of calcspar forms a low ridge, twenty or twenty-five feet in height. This calcspar can be traced 400 yards; and adjoining it, especially on the west, a great variety of minerals can be found, amongst which the ores of Titanium are the most interesting. Still further to the west and south, different varieties of granitic and augitic rocks prevail, succeeded on the northwest by the so-called 'mountain rock,' passing into quaitzite and novaculite.

"On the west side of the 'cove,' near Powers' stand, very pure specimens of Titanic acid were found. Half a mile beyond Powers', on the Rockport road, the varieties of quaitzite and novaculite rock commence, and continue most of the way to Rockport, where the novaculite rock forms natural abutments on the Ouachita River, already mentioned in the first chapter.

"Towards the north, up Cove Creek; the rock is mostly slate, mixed with a kind of greenstone trap.

"On Moses Wood's farm there is a considerable vein of iron pyrites, which traverse a slate near the bed of Cove Creek. This vein also contains some graphite and oxide of iron. Its course is 10° to 20° east of south. In the vein there is a kind of green, soft flucan, composed of the debris of green tale and chlorite slate, and a light, porous, ferruginous, cherty rock, mixed with iron pyrites. The vein is about four yards wide. It is probable that the true course of the vein is very nearly north and south, since there is a strong magnetic disturbance, which prevents the needle from traversing, and deflects it, in some placed, at least 45° to the east. When Dr. Conway laid off the line between Moses Wood's and Ashbrook's place, he found the deviations so great that he had to make an offset before he could make a true north and south line."

The "first chapter," frequently mentioned in the foregoing report, was one briefly referring to all the most important localities (geologically speaking) in the State, and of the "Magnet Cove" he says:

"There is probably no portion of Arkansas that affords a greater variety of minerals than 'Magnet Cove.' Here, in a circumscribed area of less than two miles, we found:

Black garnets, crystalized.

Green, yellow and black mica, crystallized.

Schorlamite, crystallized.

Quaitz,

Lydionstone.

Agate.

Pyroxine.

Hornblende.

Iron pyrites, crystallized and amorphous.

Strontianite, "
Arkansite, "
Elœolite, "
Actinolite, "
Epidote, "
Arragonite, "

Tale. magnetic iron ore.

And, no doubt, many other minerals exist, not yet enumerated. The most prevalent rocks are:

Novaculite, Milky Quaitz, Hornblende rock,
Quartzite, Chert, "porphyry,
Sienite, Burrstone, "slate,
Granite, Kieselschiefer, Schorlamite rock.

"Titanic acid is abundantly disseminated amongst the minerals of the Magnet Cove. It enters not only into the composition of the magnetic iron ore, but occurs, crystallized, in its purest variety, containing only a mere trace of Silica. The specimens collected and analyzed appear, indeed, to be the purest form of Brookite or Arkansite on record, as the quantity of silica separated was almost inappreciable on the most delicate chemical balance; and neither oxide of iron or alumina could be detected in appreciable quantities."

In different parts of Hot Springs County extensive deposits of gravel are found, which on examination plainly show marks of water wash. They represent all the rocks found in the Upper Ouachita Valley, which is undoubtedly their native home, and

ages and ages ago they were washed, after thousands of stops on their passage, representing as many different floods, to their final resting place. That gold exists in many of these gravel banks we are very confident, knowing that gold bearing quartz veins are numerous in the Ouachita Valley. The only prospecting for gold we know of in any of these gravel banks, was done by John J. Miles, the owner of the orchard mentioned in the foregoing pages. The gravel bank on his place is the one from which the H. S. Ry. Co. get their gravel for ballasting, about 1½ miles from Malvern, and the writer, feeling convinced that gold could be found in the bank, asked Mr. Miles if he had ever thought of prospecting it for gold. His reply was, "Yes, and I found it too; I sent off and got a regular 'gold pan,' and washed the gravel and dirt in it; found gold and gathered it together with quicksilver, and I have it in a bottle in my house."

It is far from our intention to give anybody the gold fever, for there are but few mines, gold or silver, placer diggings or quarts worked by expensive machinery, that pay the average miner as well as the same labor expended on a nicely managed little farm, an orchard or vineyard. But there are many who

little farm, an orchard or vineyard. But there are many who will not till the soil or prune a tree or vine, who could be profitably employed in mining the gravel banks of Hot Springs County (and in other counties also). It may not pay with a pan, a cradle, long Tom or sluice, though we think fair wages can be made with the two latter in favorable localities. most profitable way to work these banks is by hydraulic mining. In this way large bodies of gravel and earth can be quickly and cheaply moved, after the first expense has been incurred in securing water supply, water sluices, hose and pipes. gravel banks where, what the miners call color, can be found in every pan of dirt washed (a speck of gold, however small, that can be seen by the eye with or without a glass), will pay hand-some wages, and possibly fortunes, to the miners or owners. But little expense and not a very great amount of labor is required to do the prospecting necessary to ascertain the presence of gold in any gravel bank. A pick, shovel and pan are all the tools needed. A pan of dirt from grass roots to the rock or hard pan bottom should be thoroughly and carefully washed, and the bottom of the pan examined with care for the "color." If gold is found all through the gravel it will pay large returns.

Often it is only found at the bottom, but when so found it is very much richer and in larger quantities. Hundreds of these gravel banks are to be found about Malvern, and indeed Malvern itself is built upon one. We do not pretend to say that gold can be found in all of them, or in paying quantities in any of them, but we are confident that it does exist in many, if not in most of the gravel banks of Hot Springs County in large or small quantities.